

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SAM-01 SAB-01

EB-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 L-01 PRS-01 /041 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:GAGOWEN

APPROVED BY ARA:HARYAN

ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 243024

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GT, BH

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE: OCT 30 MEETING OF C.A. PRESIDENTS

REFERENCE: SAN JOSE 4255

1. COSTA RICAN FON MIN FACIO IS REPORTED IN REFTEL TO HAVE STATED THAT BELIZE DISPUTE WOULD BE PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEM AT MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN HEADS OF STATE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 30 IN GUATEMALA. DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATES THAT INVITED GOVERNMENTS MAY APPROACH ADDRESSEE POSTS PRIOR TO MEETING TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF USG POSITION ON BELIZE DISPUTE.

2. USG INTEREST IN THIS MATTER IS TO STAY OUT OF THE  
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MIDDLE - A NON-WIN SITUATION FOR US -- BUT TO USE OUR

BEST EFFORTS TO AVOID AN OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES OR A SITUATION WHICH WOULD SERIOUSLY INHIBIT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES. OBVIOUSLY WE ALSO WANT TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO AVOID OR AT LEAST LIMIT DAMAGE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH UK/BELIZE OR GUATEMALA. CONSEQUENTLY, EMBASSIES SHOULD NOT UNDERTAKE ANY INITIATIVES ON THIS MATTER. WE DO NOT WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT USG IS LOBBYING AGAINST THE GUATEMALANS OR SEEKING TO DICTATE C.A. RESPONSE. IF, HOWEVER, HOST GOVERNMENTS SEEK EXPOSITION

OF OUR STANCE, YOU MAY DRAW UPON FACTUAL STATEMENTS BELOW IN RESPONSE.

3. WE TAKE SERIOUSLY GUATEMALAN THREATS TO RESORT TO FORCE. WE HAVE MADE A SERIES OF STRONG REPRESENTATIONS AT HIGH LEVELS OF THE GOG TO COMMUNICATE OUR OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF FORCE AND OUR VIEW THAT NO GROUNDS EXIST IN THIS CASE WHICH COULD JUSTIFY SUCH MEASURES. WE HAVE URGED THE GUATEMALANS TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH THE UK AND GOB. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WILL NOT SUPPORT THE GOG IF IT DOES INVADE BELIZE, NOR IN SUCH EVENT, WOULD WE SUPPORT ANY SUBSEQUENT MEASURES WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO CONDONE OR REWARD THE USE OF FORCE.

4. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UK, WE HAVE URGED THEM TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE GUATEMALANS IN NEW YORK DURING THE UNGA SESSION, TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE (EVEN IF NOT SATISFYING) WORDING OF AN ALMOST INEVITABLE UNGA RESOLUTION ON BELIZE. WE HAVE ALSO STRESSED TO THE BRITISH OUR VIEW THAT THEY SHOULD EXERCISE ALL POSSIBLE INFLUENCE WITH GOB REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER DELEGATIONS TO AVOID INTRODUCTION OR PASSAGE OF A RESOLUTION WHICH GUATEMALA COULD REASONABLY CONSTRUE AS HUMILIATING. IN ADDITION, WE ARE URGING THE UK TO RECONSIDER ITS RELUCTANCE TO TAKE THE DISPUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, A COURSE THE GOG SAYS IT WOULD ACCEPT. WE HAVE REITERATED OUR VIEW THAT THE UK SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID MOVES WHICH WOULD FORECLOSE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

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5. DEPARTMENT WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR PROMPT REPORTING OF ANY CONTACT MADE WITH YOU BY HOST GOVERNMENTS ON THIS ISSUE, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING. KISSINGER

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